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MANUAL OF

FAMILY PRAYERS

C.C.P.

A MANUAL OF PRAYERS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP.

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FOR FAMILY WORSHIP.

By C. C. P.

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.—Psalm cxxvii. 1.

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PREFACE.

IN sending forth this little manual of family prayers, it may be well to adduce the reasons which prompted its publication. I had been repeatedly solicited to recommend some book of the kind for the use of believing heads of households, who, whilst sincerely desiring to honour the Lord, by seeking daily His help and blessing, yet had not the courage to constitute themselves the voice in the midst by extemporaneous prayer.

I am aware there are already in print many excellent volumes of prayers, which, nevertheless, fail to suit all inquirers after such, because of the sectarian peculiarities naturally pervading them. It was, there-

fore, suggested to me to prepare a small collection myself; and although at first I rejected the thought as in my mind altogether foreign to the principle of so divine and sacred an institution between the Creator and the creature, yet, eventually, I was irresistibly led to view it as a work of love in the Lord appointed unto me, and one on which I might expect His blessing. I now, therefore, present it to all to whom it may prove acceptable, as a crutch merely for the time being, until able to cast it aside; having in like manner, after my own conversion some forty odd years since, had recourse for a short time to a printed form, occasionally wandering therefrom, or enlarging thereon, as the Spirit led and circumstances dictated.

We know it is recorded of Paul, after his vision, on the road to Damascus, "Be-

hold, he prayeth;" and so it is with every awakened sinner. "The husbandman who laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits." "The Bereans were more noble than they of Thessalonica, in that they searched the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." For it is by daily study of, and conversance with, the Word, in communion with its Divine Author, that our intense need is truly felt, and we are enabled to pour out our hearts before Him in the very words so abundantly supplied therein for our utterance, comprehending, as the Scriptures assuredly do, every need of man in this probationary state of his existence, not in the words that man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; for "all Scripture is written by inspiration of God," and is not only "the power of God unto salvation," but profitable

for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works," amongst these, Prayer.

Again, family prayer must be preceded and strengthened by closet prayer, (see Matt. vi. 6). And, farther, there must be a close walk with God, such as Enoch's, for are we not expecting to be translated as Enoch was, or more gloriously still (1 Thess. iv. 13-18)? and may not this walk be defined by "praying without ceasing," and "in everything giving thanks?"

"There was a period when I chose
A time and place for prayer,
At morning's dawn and evening's close
My feet would wander there.
But now I seek that constant prayer
In inward stillness known,
And thus my spirit everywhere
Can dwell with God alone."

Thus closet prayer will help family prayer, and both combined will endue us with courage and ability for public usefulness, if called thereto.

Finding, as a rule, that in most families the household assembles but once in the day, I have only supplied services for four weeks, suitable for either morning or evening. The adoption of a query at the commencement of each day's reading may seem a useless novelty, but if read emphatically, like the text of a sermon, it serves at once to command the attention of the hearers to the portions of Scripture that follow, and may also prove suggestive of thought to the presiding head, and, if need be, of further comment over and above the passages furnished.

When the Scripture portions preceding each prayer have been well used, and we

will hope their instruction sealed home on the souls of those who have listened to them repeatedly, they can, at pleasure, be substituted by consecutive reading of the Scriptures, and resorted to again from time to time, as changing hearers or circumstances may incline or require.

In conclusion, I would, affectionately and earnestly, press on the hearts and consciences of all who preach or teach, privately or publicly, the paramount importance, "in these last days," when everything testifies unmistakably that the end of all things is at hand, the too much forgotten or neglected theme of the Lord's personal Advent; and may all who use this little manual have grace to unite with the writer in saying "Even so come, Lord Jesus. Amen."

C. C. P.

NOTE.

THE non-appendage of the Lord's Prayer to the daily course of family worship in this volume may lead to the supposition that its use is disapproved by the writer. Not so; but the writer deems that its use, or non-use, must be left to the individual conscience of the believing head of the household, according to the mind of the Spirit. Trained from infancy to its daily repetition, I love and honour it for its Divine authorship; *but* I confess that of late years I have staggered over its fifth clause, viz., "forgive us our trespasses, *as we* forgive them that trespass against us," as though it imprecated *judgment under law.*

I have been strengthened in this thought, and otherwise instructed, by remarks from the pen of a highly-gifted and well-taught servant of the

Lord, which only very lately fell into my hands, wherefore I think it well to subjoin them for the prayerful consideration of others.

"*Ephesians* iv. 29. *Forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you.*

"This is a change from 'the Lord's Prayer.' *There* you are instructed to know that God will measure Himself by *you.* 'Forgive . . . as we forgive.' *Here* is quite the reverse; I am to measure myself by God; 'forgiving as God *hath* forgiven you.' This shows that the Lord's ministry was a transitional thing; it had not come out into the full glory of salvation. Now a ministry has gone forth for the perfecting of us individually, and for our edification as the body of Christ."

FIRST WEEK.

First Week.

SUNDAY.

WHAT think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He? They say unto Him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call Him, Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit Thou on My right hand, till I make Thine enemies Thy footstool? If David then call Him Lord, how is He his Son? MATT. xxii. 42-45.

After six days Jesus taketh Peter and James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light. And

behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with Him. Then answered Peter and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here; if Thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for Thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;* HEAR YE HIM! And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, *save Jesus only.* And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, *until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.*—MATT. xvii. 1-9.

And they kept that saying in their hearts, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.—MARK ix. 10.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the

sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for *He is risen, as He said.* Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there ye shall see Him; lo, I have told you. . . . . And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.—MATT. xxviii. 1-9.

PRAYER.

O LORD our God and Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast in Thine infinite love, and grace, and mercy, permitted us

to meet around our family altar to offer Thee our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving on this, the Lord's day, the day on which Jesus arose from the dead, having satisfied Thy justice by dying, the just for the unjust; we thank Thee that He, the spotless Lamb, God incarnate, "tasted death for every man;" for Thou didst not send Him into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Grant, we pray Thee, this day, that Thy people who have believed through grace, and "entered into covenant with Thee by sacrifice," even the sacrifice of Thine own beloved Son, may indeed be *in the Spirit*, that so all they do for the furtherance of Thy kingdom may be effectual to the pulling down the strongholds of Satan, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth

itself against God, and bringing every thought into subjection to the obedience of Christ; thus fitted for the work, may they go forth into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature; and do Thou our Father give an abundant increase. Make the blind to see, cause the lame to walk, let the lepers be cleansed, and the deaf hear. May the dead in trespasses and sins be raised to new life, even the life that is in Christ Jesus, by the mighty power of the Word, and hear His loving voice, saying, "Thy sins which are many are all forgiven;" and grant, O our God! that each pardoned one, ransomed from the power of Satan, may, like the one of old, who "ceased not to kiss the Saviour's feet," love much; Give also unto us, our Father, who are now kneeling at Thy footstool, that perfect love, the fruit of the know-

ledge of sin pardoned and blotted out for ever from the book of Thy remembrance, that shall constrain and influence our every look, word, and action, that so we may truly live to, and for Him who died for us, and now ever liveth at Thy right hand as our High Priest and Intercessor.

And, O gracious God and Father, we would especially ask Thee to give us increased largeness of heart, even to embracing all mankind in the arms of our faith and love. Give us that charity that thinketh no evil. Make us both quicksighted in discerning, and severe in judging, our own defects and failings, and very slow in condemning those, who, holding the Head, yet differ, and walk not with us. Yea, may we "judge nothing before the time until He come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make

manifest the counsels of the heart; and then shall every man have praise of God;" "Not looking on things after the outward appearance, but if any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him think this again, that as he is Christ's, so even are we Christ's." May we not be high-minded, but fear, proving all things, and holding fast that which is good.

And now, our God and Father, we would bring our own dear children before Thee. Give us grace to train them for Thy glory only; never chastening them for our own pleasure through waywardness, but for their profit, keeping them in subjection to Thee. Make them whilst here joyous and happy. May we not cling too tenaciously, too fondly to them, but hold them as Thy gift, to be taken or left as Thou seest best for them, for us, and above all for Thy glory.

Bless those who serve in our house, make them true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and grant that with goodwill we may serve one another, thus serving Christ our Master in everything.

Bless the Queen and her counsellors, bring them all to the saving knowledge of the truth, as it is in Jesus. Overrule all their deliberations, and cause them to do that which will effectually promote Thy glory and hasten the coming kingdom, when Thy will shall be done on earth as it is in Heaven. And now unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, be all honour and glory, might, majesty, and dominion, henceforth and for ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us now and evermore. *Amen.*

MONDAY.

CANST thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? —JOB xi. 7.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. He was in the world, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on

His name: Which were born, not of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.—JOHN i. 1-5, 10-14.

PRAYER.

O LORD our God and Father, we praise and bless Thy holy name, in that, though Thou art the High and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, yet dost Thou promise in Thy word to dwell with him also who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of all such. Give us, we pray Thee, true contrition, and humility of soul: our coldness and deadness may well fill us with shame. Revive us, O our God, and cause us to run without weariness, and to walk without fainting in the way of Thine appointment. We bless Thee, our Father,

that Thou hast recorded for our comfort that Thou art ready to forgive; yea, that Thou art a God full of compassion, gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. We faint and fail, but Thou art still the unchangeable Jehovah. Thou canst not deny Thyself, and therefore Thy compassions fail not. Thy promises are all Yea and Amen, in Thy well-beloved Son, in whose name and through whose finished work we now kneel before Thee; Increase our confidence in Thee, that we be not straitened in ourselves; that so Thy mercies may be multiplied, and that we, forgetting the things that are behind, may afresh press along the mark for the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus, looking unto Him alone. Give us, we pray Thee, singleness of eye to His glory, in all that we put our hand unto: help us in everything

to seek first Thy kingdom and its righteousness, trusting implicitly Thy faithful promise to add all we need thereunto. Strengthen us mightily, that we may be bold to speak the word without fear; not of envy and strife, but of good will: be mouth, matter, and wisdom to us, that so by the love of our blessed Master constraining us, we may be enabled to win souls to Him, the only Saviour, the Way, the Truth, and the Life—that thus doing, we may henceforth live to Him who died for us once to bring us to Thee; but now ever liveth, our great High Priest and Intercessor, through whom we present our petitions, casting ourselves, our children, and all our house on Thy care and protection. And now, our gracious God and Father, let Thy presence go before and Thy blessing follow us, in all the duties

and engagements of another week. Sanctify to us, by Thy Holy Spirit, the rest and refreshment of the past day. Be Thou our arm every morning. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, establish Thou our handiwork, and help us worthily to ascribe unto Thee all praise, might, majesty, and dominion henceforth and for ever. *Amen.*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

TUESDAY.

WHO hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in His fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is His name, and what is His son's name, if thou canst tell?—PROV. xxx. 4.

I am Jehovah, that is My name, and My glory will I not give to another.—ISAIAH xlii. 8.

Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins . . . . and His name shall be called Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.—MATT. i. 21, 23.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonder-

ful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth, even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.—ISAIAH ix. 6, 7.

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight. All things are delivered unto Me of My Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him. Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.—MATT. xi. 25-30.

Jesus saith unto them, But whom say ye

that I am? And Simon answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven.—MATT. xvi. 15-17.

PRAYER.

O LORD our God and Father, we Thy children by adoption and grace through faith in Thy well-beloved Son, Immanuel, God with us, desire to come before Thee with the language of praise and thanksgiving, in that Thou didst call His name Jesus, because He should save His people from their sins. Above all, we thank Thee that the work wrought by Him for every believing sinner is a finished work; yea, we would bless Thee heartily for this, that

His work is perfect, and Thou requirest nothing to be added thereunto, but that—

> Just as we are, and waiting not
> To rid our souls of one dark blot,
> To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
> O Lamb of God, we come.

We ask, O our God, in His all-prevailing name, that every member of our household may, by the teaching of Thy Holy Spirit, realize savingly their interest in its cleansing, saving power, that we may be eminently a house serving Thee.

May none of us deceive ourselves in any wise, but know assuredly by faith a place and portion in Him. Thus assured, help us, our God, to surrender ourselves, and all we have and are to His service, that so when our course here shall be ended, we may have a sure and certain hope of re-union in that kingdom which shall never

pass away. Go forth with us, we pray Thee, in our several duties and engagements in life, whether public or domestic, and grant that everything we do may be done with singleness of heart to Thy glory; keep to this end ever in our remembrance the coming of our Lord and Master the second time without sin unto salvation, which assuredly now hasteth greatly. Oh! may we all have grace to lift up our heads, believing that our redemption draweth nigh.

Bless especially our children; may we hold them as Thy gift, and train them for Thy glory. We thank Thee for all our temporal mercies, and commend still all our wants to Thy care, believing fully that as Thou didst not spare Thine own Son, but freely gave Him up for us all, so Thou wilt with Him give us all else that we need,

and to Thy name be all praise, honour, and glory for ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY.

WHERE is the place where light dwelleth?

The entrance of Thy word giveth light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.—JOHN i. 9.

I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. Abide in Me; as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without Me ye can do nothing. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.—JOHN viii. 12; xv. 4, 5, 8.

If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is

that saith unto thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.—JOHN iv. 10.

PRAYER.

HOLY and heavenly Father, in the name of Thy well-beloved Son, that precious name which is above every name, we desire now to approach unto Thee. O bow down Thine ear, that we may indeed pour out our hearts before Thee. We come, we humbly trust, thirsting, and desiring to drink of that water, which He who spake as never man spake, promised should be in those who drank thereof a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. Oh! we implore Thee to make our thirst real, even as the hart's that panteth after the water-brooks. Grant, too, we pray Thee, that it may be thus, not only with

us, and our children, but with our whole house, and with all belonging to us that may seem now afar off. Give us this living water, heavenly Father, in order that life may be manifested in all our words, works, and ways, to Thy glory, for whom are all things, and by whom all things consist. Thou, O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure; they all shall wax old as doth a garment, and as a vesture Thou shalt fold them up, and they shall be changed, but Thou art the same, and Thy word shall not fail. Set eternity ever before our eyes, that we may judge all things in its light; and may we each know assuredly for ourselves, that when our house of this frail tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building of God, a

house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Make our strength for warfare the Lord Himself, that thus going forth in Him we may overcome all the sinful lusts of the flesh. Make us very jealous of the holiness of His name upon us, that we may not only depart from iniquity, but carefully abstain from all appearance of evil; that so, by Thy help and blessing, we may have our lamps trimmed, our lights burning, and be indeed as those who wait for their Lord, that when He cometh and knocketh we may open to Him immediately.

And now, our gracious God and Father, we commend our temporal concerns to Thy care, beseeching Thee to order all for us and ours as seemeth best in Thy sight; keeping us by Thy mighty power, through faith, to that salvation which waiteth to be revealed at the appearing of Jesus Christ, to

Whom with Thyself be all honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen* and *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY.

HOW should man be just with God?—JOB ix. 2.

By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested; being witnessed by the law and prophets. Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ, unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God: Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to

declare, I say, His righteousness, that He might be just and yet the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.—ROM. iii. 20-26.

Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by him all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. —ACTS xiii. 38, 39.

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. —2 COR. ix. 15.

Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of Thine anointed.—Ps. lxxxiv. 9.

For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.—2 COR. v. 21.

PRAYER.

PRAISED be Thy Holy Name, our God and Father, for all the soul-strengthening truths recorded in Thy word for our instruction and comfort concerning Thy Son,

and our forever perfected security in, by, and through Him. It is thus that we can draw nigh unto Thee with our once defiled consciences made pure by the blood of the everlasting covenant, to seek grace to help us in every time of need. Strengthen us, our God, mightily, we pray Thee, that we being rooted and grounded in the faith and in love, may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works; watching for the souls of all around us, as those that must give an account of whatever talent Thou hast committed to our charge.

We confess, Heavenly Father, our coldness and deadness in Thy service; and that we, in common with all, seek our own things and not the things that are Jesus Christ's; disregarding to our own hurt and loss the promise, that they who water others shall be watered, and that they who turn many to

righteousness, shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.

May we by Thy help, which we supplicate at this time, henceforth live to Him who died to deliver us from this present evil world. May we seek others' wealth rather than our own, and be ready to deny ourselves and take up our cross, of which we are so often ashamed. We are indeed very vile, and may well loathe ourselves on this account, for truly we cast aside, rather than forget, our Saviour's gracious words of warning, "Whoso denieth Me before men shall be denied before My Father in heaven." Help us, we beseech Thee, to add to our faith holy courage to confess Him at all times, and in all places, for the great love wherewith He hath loved us. May we by Thy mighty power working in us, keep our hearts with all diligence, since out of them

are the issues of life, that our words may at all times be a savour thereof unto edification, that so nothing may escape our lips that shall grieve, defile, or stumble others. Deliver us from pride, anger, strife, and all uncharitableness.

Suffer us never to be wise in our own conceits, nor strong in our own strength; but grant us nevertheless the conviction that nothing is impossible to faith, but that even we, vile and worthless in ourselves, can do all things through Christ strengthening us, that so we may be preserved from sloth and indifference on the one hand, and foolhardiness on the other.

Make us as a family of one mind in the Lord, striving together for the faith once delivered to the saints. Above all, as we know not when the Master of the house cometh, who has left to each his work

therein, whether at evening, or at midnight, at cock-crowing or in the morning, help us, our Father, to watch unceasingly, lest coming suddenly, He find us sleeping.

And now in faith in Thy love we cast ourselves, our dear children, and all our house unreservedly on Thee; do with, for, and to us even as Thou wilt, to fit us for all Thy blessed purposes concerning us. We ask all in the name of Jesus, to whom with Thyself be all the glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

FRIDAY.

HOW shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him, God also bearing them witness by signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost according to His own will?—HEB. ii. 3, 4.

There were present at that season some that told Him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans because they did such things? *I tell you nay, but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.* Or those eighteen upon whom the tower of Siloam

fell and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt at Jerusalem? *I tell you nay, but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.*—LUKE xiii. 1-5.

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.—HEB. iv. 1, 2.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment suppose ye shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and done despite unto the Spirit of Grace? —HEB. x. 28, 29.

See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh, for if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven. —HEB. xii. 25.

He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him at the last day.—JOHN xii. 48.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, O Lord our God, that it is indeed a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. All have sinned and come short of Thy glory, and Thou hast declared there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Nevertheless, all unworthy as we are in ourselves, yet standing in His righteousness, who hath loved and given Himself for us, the very chief of sinners, our utter unworthiness becomes our very plea for free and full acceptance.

Draw nigh to us, our God, at this time, and fill our souls with perfect confidence in

Thy pardoning grace through Jesus, that thus assured we may be enabled to pour out our hearts before Thee, believing of a truth that we have the petitions we desire. We know that Thou willest not the death of any, but that the wicked should turn from his way and live. Thou desirest that the Gospel of salvation by Jesus Christ should be preached to every creature, and sent forth to the very ends of the earth. Stir us up, we pray Thee, to greater zeal and activity for the spread of the truth, not only in our home circle, and our immediate neighbourhood, but throughout the world. Make us bold to speak the Word without fear, whether men will hear or whether they will forbear: Grant our God that we may never suffer sin in our brother; never acquiesce where we ought to resist, nor be silent where we ought to reprove; seeking

ever to restore in the spirit of meekness, bearing thus one another's burdens, and so fulfilling the law of Christ; confessing our faults one to another, and praying one for the other, that we may be healed; thus walking in the fear of the Lord, and the comfort of the Holy Ghost: for, in many things we all offend.

May we know, our Father, by Thy help, how to speak a word in season to any that are weary and heavy laden, to come unto Jesus and rest. May our words and lives allure them to come up out of the wilderness world, leaning on the "Beloved," Who gave Himself a ransom for all. Suffer us never to forget that the time is short, and whatsoever our hand findeth to do, may we do it with our might, seeing the night cometh when none can work; for now is our salvation nearer than we believed, and

the day of the Lord cometh as a snare, upon all them that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. May we work then for Him who loved and gave Himself for us, proclaiming to all, that it is in, by, and through Him alone that any can be accounted worthy to escape all those things that are coming to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. Confirm us, we pray Thee, in all truth to the end, that we may be found blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ to His Glory. And to Thy name be all the praise for ever. *Amen* and *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

SATURDAY.

WHY art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise Him who is the help of my countenance and my God.—PSALM xlii. 5.

Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they

shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.—ISAIAH xl. 28-31.

Therefore, my dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be over anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.—PHIL. iv. 1, 4-7.

PRAYER.

PREPARE our hearts, Heavenly Father, to draw nigh unto Thee, in full assurance of faith, believing that Thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee: Thou hast been our help, leave us not, neither forsake us, O God of our Salvation, and when our heart is overwhelmed

within us, by reason of the discouragements in our way, lead us to the rock, that is higher than we are: May we ever find Thee a God at hand, and not afar off, and thus may we lean more implicitly on our loving Saviour, as a sure refuge in every storm, a covert from every tempest, realizing what it is to be troubled on every side, yet *not distressed;* perplexed, but *not in despair;* persecuted, *but not forsaken;* cast down, but *not destroyed.* Such are the lessons of Thy School, Holy Father, and we pray Thee to make us apt scholars, that we may be able in our measure to comfort others, who are troubled, "with the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God;" and thus in everything may we give Thee thanks, which is Thy will in Christ Jesus concerning us, and may we boldly say, This God is our God for ever

and ever, He will be our guide even unto the end; a strong tower against every adversary from within, and from without. Above all, Heavenly Father, save us from ourselves; from pride, malice, and all uncharitableness. Make us slow to condemn others, but quick to detect our own sins of commission and omission, that our prayers be not hindered. Make our consciences very tender, and let confession ever follow offence in thought, word, or deed, that thus Thy peace may rule, and reign in our hearts, by the power of Thy Holy Spirit. Keep us, we pray Thee, ever abiding in Jesus, that so we may bring forth fruit to His praise, by a holy consistent walk; that our testimony be not marred to His love, truth, and faithfulness, and we become, through unfaithfulness, stumbling blocks to those around us, instead of living Epistles, known and read of all men.

And now, Heavenly Father, we would commit ourselves and all belonging to us to Thy loving care, beseeching Thee to mould us each and all to Thy will, and to preserve us body, soul, and spirit blameless, unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

SECOND WEEK.

Second Week.

SUNDAY.

WHO hath known the mind of the Lord? —ROM. xi. 34.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him after the custom of the law, then took he Him up in his

arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word: FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.—LUKE ii. 25-32.

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that *thought* upon His name. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear My Name, shall

the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing on his wings.—MALACHI iii. 16-18; iv. 1, 2.

Take ye heed, watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is.—MARK xiii. 23.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS God and Heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast in Thy providential care brought us to the commencement of another week, and permitted us once more to bow the knee before Thee, and to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for Thine unnumbered and undeserved mercies; above all would we thank Thee, that the way of access is never closed to faith, and though, like Thy people Israel, we have destroyed ourselves, yet in Thee is our help found, and we are the living (alive in Jesus only, if so be we have tasted that He is gracious),

to praise Thee; and thus of us also, dost Thou say, "This people have I formed for Myself; they shall show forth My praise;" purify us, we pray Thee, unto Him, and make us zealous of good works to Thine everlasting glory.

Truly Thou hast given us line upon line in Thy word; write it on the fleshly tables of our hearts, with the spirit of the living God, that we may not sin against Thee, and dishonour our heavenly calling in Christ Jesus, but be holy and without blame before Him in love; His word dwelling in us richly, may we teach and admonish one another in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, making melody in our hearts unto the Lord; and so much the more, as we see the day *rapidly* approaching, that our names may be found in Thy book of remembrance when Thou comest to make up Thy jewels; and

that as Simeon waited for the consolation of Israel, so we may be found waiting for Thy Son from Heaven, who, praised be Thy Name for Thy transcendent grace and mercy, hath delivered us from the wrath to come, and hath made us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

Thou hast taught us to pray for kings and all that are in authority. O our God, extend Thy mercy to such; bless our Queen and all the royal family, open all their eyes to the everlasting truths of the Gospel, help them to receive the truth as it is in Jesus, that they may be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Give to her counsellors wisdom, overrule all their deliberations for the good of Thine own people, the safety and welfare of our sovereign and her dominions; supplant expediency by a singleness of eye to

Thy glory, that thus peace and happiness, truth and justice, and righteousness may flourish in our midst, and be extended to every nation of the earth; that now, when Thy judgments are abroad, Thy voice may be heard calling all men to repent and believe the Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that receiveth it.

Hear us, our Father, in all that we have asked, add all that Thou seest we need, for ourselves, our children, our relatives and friends, and all mankind, for the sake of Him who tasted death for every man, and willeth not that any should perish, but that all should turn to Him and live. Let all hear effectually Thy loving call. Turn ye to the stronghold, for why, oh! why will ye die? May it be said of none within hearing of so great salvation, Ye will not

come unto Me that ye might have life. Hasten, O Lord our God, Thy kingdom, that Thy will may be done on earth, as it is done in heaven, all we ask is in Jesus' name. *Amen* and *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

MONDAY.

WHAT wilt thou that I should do unto thee?

The blind man said unto Him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And *immediately* he received his sight, and *followed Jesus in the way.*—MARK x. 51, 52.

Then Jesus spake unto them again, saying, I am the light of the world: he that *followeth Me* shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—JOHN viii. 12.

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me, should not abide in darkness.—JOHN xii. 46.

This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather

than light because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God.—JOHN iii. 19-21.

All things that are reproved are made manifest by the light, for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.—EPH. v. 13, 14.

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind.—PSALM cxlvi. 8.

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see, and they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with Him heard these words, and said, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind ye should have no sin; but now, ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.—JOHN ix. 39-41.

Prayer.

O LORD our God and Father, who in the beginning didst command the light to shine out of darkness, we desire to bless and praise Thy name, that in Thy boundless love and grace Thou hast shined into our hearts, giving us the light of the knowledge of Thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ; yet, seeing we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of Thee, we pray Thee to give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that we may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

Disperse every mist from our vision, that may tend to obscure our view and estimate of the aboundings of grace treasured up for all who believe the record which Thou hast

given of Thy Son; that so, whilst rejoicing ourselves in this full and free salvation, we may, by the teachings of the Holy Spirit, hold forth no uncertain sound to others; but testify to the still unsaved, that Thou art Love, that Thou willest not the death of any, but that all should turn to Jesus, and live; that he that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life, but the wrath of God abideth on him, that thus we may be pure from the blood of all who come under our influence and testimony. To will our Father is present with us, but how to perform that which is good, too often we find not, and thus dishonour Thee and wound our own souls; but thanks again be unto Thee for Thine unspeakable gift, we have redemption through the blood of Jesus, even the forgiveness of our sins. We can look up and

say, Behold, O God, our shield, and look on the face of Thine anointed.

And now, our Father, we desire to acknowledge the bounties of Thy providence in the supply of our daily recurring wants; we thank Thee for health and strength of body, and for soundness of mind. Whilst thus the recipients of these Thy manifold and great mercies, make us mindful of the sick and sorrowful around us, and may we seek to mitigate to the utmost the trials of others, from which in Thy gracious ordering we are at present exempt.

Help us ever to weep with those who weep, and to rejoice with those who rejoice. May nothing we do be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind may we each esteem other better than ourselves. Help us, as much as lieth in us, to live

peaceably with all men, to recompense to no man evil for evil, but contrariwise blessing, ever forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us.

And now, Heavenly Father, take us and all ours into Thy gracious care and keeping, lead us in the paths of righteousness for Jesus' Name's sake, and make us to long for His glorious appearing, when He will change these our bodies of corruption, and fashion them like unto His own glorious body; when we shall be like Him, and see Him as He is, and be with Him for ever.

Even so come Lord Jesus. *Amen* and *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

TUESDAY.

WHAT think ye of Christ?—MATT. xxii. 42.

The wages of sin is *death*, but the gift of God is *eternal life*, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—ROM. vi. 23.

By Him all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.—ACTS xiii. 39.

Unto you therefore, that believe, He is precious.—1 PETER ii. 7.

For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell.—COL. i. 19.

And ye are *complete in Him*.—COL. ii. 10.

He died for all, that they that live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him that died for them, and rose again. Ye are not your own, but are bought with a price; there-

fore glorify God in your body and spirit, which are God's.—1 COR. vi. 19, 20.

And now, little children, *abide in Him,* that when He shall *appear* we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. —1 JOHN ii. 28.

Him that cometh unto Me I will *in no wise* cast out.—JOHN vi. 37.

PRAYER.

WHEREWITH shall we come before Thee, O Lord, and bow our knees before the most High God; shall we offer our first-born for our transgression, the fruit of our body for the sin of our souls? Nay, our Father, praised be Thy Name, Thou hast not only found but accepted a ransom, even Jesus Thy well-beloved Son: "Thou hast laid on Him the iniquity of us all," not only assuring us of a full and free pardon, but of access into Thy very presence, by that new and living way, which He hath consecrated

for us, through the vail, that is to say, His flesh; so that we have not only peace with Thee, but are called to rejoice, in hope of the glory that waiteth to be revealed. By Him, therefore, may we offer the sacrifice of praise continually, giving thanks to His Name, for this is well-pleasing unto Thee, and praise should ever be the joyful language of the redeemed.

Heavenly Father, search every heart before Thee. Can each and all of us say, Jesus is mine, and I am His? I know in whom I have believed, and know that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him, to that day; for on this hangs every hope of salvation and glory. In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. We err and stray from Thy ways continually, yet

suffer us never to forget where Thou hast laid help, even on the Lamb once slain, now alive for evermore, and able always to present us faultless before His Father and our Father, His God and our God. In His precious Name, we now ask Thee to bless all among whom we dwell; our relatives, friends, and especially our children, and help us, in Thy fear, to discharge our responsibility to each and all.

May the poor, the needy, the sick, and the afflicted, ever claim our sympathy and prayers. Make us not only stewards of Thy mysteries of grace, but almoners of whatever means Thou dost entrust us with, for the good of others. Enlarge our hearts; may those of us who are rich give bountifully, that we may, according to Thy Word, reap also bountifully. May we ever be pitiful and courteous, tender and com-

passionate, to all, of whatsoever estate. Make us wise in winning souls to Christ, knowing nothing amongst men but Jesus, and Him crucified, risen, and exalted at Thy right hand, thence expecting until His foes be made His footstool; testifying ever of that full and free Gospel which is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. May we have grace to thus occupy till He comes to receive us to Himself. And now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before Thy presence with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now, and for ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY.

WHAT is truth?—JOHN xviii. 38.

Jesus saith, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.—JOHN xiv. 6.

Verily I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. I am the door: by Me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture.—JOHN x. 1, 9.

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am there ye may be also.—JOHN xiv. 2, 3.

It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you: but if I depart I will send Him unto you. When He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for He shall take of Mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are Mine; therefore said I, He shall take of Mine, and shall show it unto you.—JOHN xvi. 7, 13-15.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.—JOHN viii. 32, 36.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, unite our souls, we pray Thee, at this time in praise and thanksgiving, that Thou hast made Thy Son to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of

God in Him ; thus making a way of escape from all condemnation, and giving us, through Him, access to Thy Throne of grace and mercy. We desire to draw near in full assurance of faith, believing not only in Thine infinite power to help us, but also in Thy willingness to do exceeding abundantly, above all that we can ask or think ; yea, to open the windows of Heaven, and pour us out a blessing that there shall not be room to contain it. Pour down, we pray Thee, Thy blessing upon our offspring, and help us to train them daily in Thy fear, and may they early learn to trust in Thy love. May we all be so perfected therein, that it may truly cast out every fear as to the past, the present, and the future, knowing, in power, our full acceptance in Christ Jesus our Lord. We rejoice in the thought that Thou knowest the temptations and

trials that beset us on every hand, and our proneness to faint and give way before them. Strengthen us, we pray Thee, for all the duties of life; preserve us in all the troubles and perplexities of business, in a world so full of evil; and enable us therein to glorify Thee, having our loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. May all we engage in have Thy blessing; and all we do, be done as unto Thee, to whom we must, as Thy children, render an account. Bless thus, our Father, our going out and our coming in, our lying down and our rising up from this time forth even for evermore. Make us but conscious of Thine approval, and we need not fear the reproach of men, for in Thy favour is life. Shed forth Thy light and Thy truth continually on our path, that we may be kept from falling, and thus grieving

Thy Holy Spirit, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption. We ask all for Jesus' sake, and in His precious Name, to whom with Thyself be all Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY.

THEN said they unto Him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God?

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent. They said therefore unto Him, What sign showest Thou that we may see and believe Thee? What dost Thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert, as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then said Jesus unto them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then saith they unto Him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto

them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh unto Me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst. He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life: I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which came down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread he shall live for ever. Verily, verily I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.—JOHN vi. 28-35, 47-51.

PRAYER.

O GOD our Creator and Preserver, enable us, we pray Thee, to draw nigh to Thy Throne of grace and mercy, with reverence and godly fear, and yet with filial confidence. May we come with a full sense of

Thy Mighty Power, and our own great need. In Thee we live, and move, and have our being, and Thou alone canst sustain our natural and our spiritual life. We require and receive daily from Thee the bread that perishes, through Thy blessing on the labour of our hands, and whilst we thank Thee for the supply of our hourly recurring wants, we would earnestly, and specially, ask Thee to nourish our souls with the bread which cometh down from Heaven, and giveth life unto the world. "Lord, evermore give us this bread." May we, our Father, one and all, surrounding this family altar, set our affections on things above, where Christ sitteth at Thy right hand; for where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. Seeing too, from Thy Word, that Thou willest that we should search it ourselves, and teach it

diligently to our children, we pray Thee to enlighten us thereon. "Open our eyes that we may behold wonderful things out of Thy law," according to Thine own blessed promise recorded for our instruction "*Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty* hidden things which Thou knowest not." Truly, our God, we are not straightened in Thee; we have not because we ask not, because we thirst not. We are, indeed, at best slow to learn, but oh forbid, we pray Thee, that we should be unwilling to have our darkness removed, through love of the world that cast out our Lord, and things seen and temporal, that we shrink from giving up. The hurrying on of events predicted and foreshadowed proclaim the end to be approaching, may we, by Thy grace, be sober and watch unto prayer. Let not our hearts be overcharged

with the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things, lest, coming suddenly, Jesus find us sleeping. Write His own words on our souls with a pen of adamant, "What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch!"

By Thy grace and goodness, we have sought from Thee at this time spiritual blessings; we have Thine own assurance, by the mouth of our blessed Master, that Thou carest for us, and wilt add all that is needful thereunto, and into Thy safe and Holy keeping we commend our whole house and all dear to us in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

FRIDAY.

THERE be many that say, Who will show us any good?

Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us.—Ps. iv. 6.

For the Lord God is a sun and a shield: the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of Hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee.—Ps. lxxxiv. 11, 12.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal, for where your treasure is there will your heart be also.

The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.—MATT. vi. 19-22.

If riches increase set not your heart upon them.—Ps. lxii. 10.

There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty. He that withholdeth corn the people shall curse him, but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.—PROV. xi. 24, 26.

To do good and to distribute forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.—HEB. xiii. 16.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, Heavenly Father, that we who were children of wrath, even as others, are now made nigh by the blood of Christ, through whom we have present access unto Thee, and possess the hope of a glorious immortality; for our citizenship is in Heaven, from whence also we look for

the Saviour, even the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal glory: Grant us then according to the riches of His grace, to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man, that He may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the length and breadth, and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of the Godhead. Grant us, as a family, that we may strive together for the faith of the Gospel, speaking to and admonishing one another, thus strengthening each other in our most holy faith; and knowing the weakness of the flesh, and the desperate wickedness and deceitfulness of the heart, we pray Thee to put forth Thy mighty power on our behalf, in these assuredly

"last perilous times," that we be not led away by the error of the wicked; rather, Heavenly Father, make us ready to suffer for Christ's sake, than deny Him in any wise. Make the joy of fellowship with Him, our strength for service to Him, and grant, that thus working out our salvation with fear and trembling, we may overcome, by His mighty power working in us, every opposing hindrance in our path heavenward. Especially would we, in this evil day, bring our children, that He may put his hand on and bless them, marking them for His own from their earliest infancy; and give us, their parents, grace so to train them in Thy holy fear, that they may hereafter, if life be prolonged, adorn the Gospel of His grace in all their ways. To this end help us, gracious Father, to walk before them in all the simplicity of truth,

that whilst admonishing them by our words, we may not stumble them by our ways. Fill us with zeal in Thy service, and help us to work and pray for the spread of truth by all and every means in our power, having ever in remembrance the increase of Christ's kingdom, by making known the blessed hope of His glorious appearing, when His rule will be established, and Thy will done on earth as it is done in Heaven. All we ask is in His Name; and in Thy love grant that all we receive may be used for His glory, to whom, with Thyself, help us to ascribe in our lives, as well as in word, all praise for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

SATURDAY.

I, EVEN I, am He that comforteth you. Who art thou that art afraid of a man that shall die, and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, that hath stretched forth the Heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth?—ISAIAH li. 12, 13.

Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands. They shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment. And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail.—HEB. i. 10-12.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass

away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.—2 PETER iii. 10.

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.—REV. vi. 14.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.—2 PETER, iii. 11-14.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.—REV. xxi. 1.

Prayer.

O LORD our God and Father, again we desire to bow the knee before Thee, to acknowledge our entire dependence on Thee, moment by moment, for by Thee alone our life spiritual and natural is sustained. In Thee we live, and move, and have our being. Thou hast brought us to the close of another week, and we come as a family to crave the blessing that maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow; for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is life, light, liberty, and joy, which is strength to walk in the way of Thine appointing. If preserved until the coming Lord's Day, set apart more especially for rest and worship, may it be, we pray Thee, a season of refreshment to our souls, strengthening us for another week's warfare in the battle of

life; and above all meetening us for Thine Everlasting Kingdom, when all that is of time shall have for ever passed away.

Renew in us a right spirit, that we, asking such things as are accordant with Thy mind, may obtain all Thy love will delight to bestow, for Thy promises are true and faithful; Thou givest liberally, and only upbraidest our "little faith." Do Thou, our Father, mete out Thy gifts according to our need, which Thou seest better than ourselves. Give us such a keen sense thereof as shall call forth the cry, We will not let Thee go, except Thou bless us; even now draw nigh in mighty power to each of our souls, and fill us with Thyself, that we may go forth rejoicing, that others may take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus; make us henceforth living Epistles known and read of all men.

Clothe each and all before Thee now with the righteousness of our blessed Saviour, that Thou, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, may accept us in Him the beloved: are we poor in spirit as conscious of our unworthiness, enrich us with the treasures of Thy Kingdom by faith in the perfect worthiness of our substitute. Thus we cast ourselves on Thee altogether, to work in us, to will, and to do of Thy good pleasure. Meeten and fashion us each and all according to Thine own mind for the coming kingdom, in view of which all things were ordered from the beginning. We thank Thee that Thou hast taught us by Thy dear Son to seek first this kingdom and its righteousness, with the promise that all things necessary shall be added thereto. We know Thy faithfulness, and commend our children and our whole

house to Thy care and protection. Day and night be Thou our refuge and helper, for Jesus' sake, to whom with Thyself be all glory for ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

THIRD WEEK.

Third Week.

SUNDAY.

IS the Lord's arm shortened, that he cannot save; or is His ear heavy, that He cannot hear?—ISAIAH lix. 1.

Call upon Me in the time of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.—Ps. l. 15.

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth for the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.—JAMES v. 17, 18.

The effectual inwrought prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—JAMES v. 16.

Prayer was appointed to convey
The blessings God designs to give;
Long as they live should Christians pray,
For only while they pray they live.
Prayer makes the darkened cloud withdraw,
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw,
Gives exercise to faith and love,
Brings every blessing from above.
Restraining prayer we cease to fight.
Prayer makes the Christian's armour bright,
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.

Behold, he prayeth.—ACTS ix. 11.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.—MARK xiv. 38.

Men ought always to pray, and not faint.—LUKE xviii. 1.

PRAYER.

GIVE ear unto our prayer, O our God, attend unto the voice of our cry, which, by Thy grace, goeth not forth of

feigned lips. Let it come before Thee, Heavenly Father, as the evening sacrifice, and in the morning may it prevent Thee. Rejoice our souls, for our whole trust and confidence is in Thy word; We do desire to draw nigh, in full assurance of faith, and in the happy consciousness that Thou art more ready to hear than we to pray, and ever wont to give us exceeding abundantly, above all that we can ask or think. Truly Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; Thou hast not hid Thy face from us, but made Thyself in Thy dear Son our hiding-place, encouraging us by Thine own loving assurance, that though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, and though red like crimson, they shall be as wool: O Lord our God, they are more in number than the hairs of our head, and yet,

praised be Thy Name, our hearts fail us not; for we trust in Thy faithful word, and build all our hopes on the Rock of Ages, against which the winds and floods must beat in vain. What can we render unto Thee, our God, for such a covert from every storm and tempest through which we may be called to pass? Help us, we beseech Thee, to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee, which is our reasonable service: the spirit truly is willing, and our consolation is that Thou knowest that the flesh is weak; Thou rememberest we are dust, Thou wilt pity, and oh! do Thou ever care for us; bear us as on eagles' wings, and bring us safely to the glory preparing for us. And whilst, our Father, we thus rejoice in the all-sufficiency of the finished work of Jesus, ourselves, help us fervently to desire and

pray for the effectual lifting up of His Cross before a perishing world. The fields are white for the harvest, but the labourers are few: do Thou, O God, fit and send them forth; do Thou prepare the ground to receive the seed, and do Thou cause it to spring up, and bring forth fruit abundantly to Thy praise and glory.

Bless, O God, our Queen and country; give wisdom to her counsellors, and bring them to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, freed from all the soul-darkening traditions of men. Bless all the poor in our land; make them rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour. Especially would we pray for the young: enlighten all Sabbath and secular school teachers, that these may savingly instruct others.

We beseech Thee also to care for all

travellers by sea and land; those who go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters, these see Thy wonders in the deep, Oh, let them experience Thy mighty power to save; convert the seamen of every land, that they may carry the glad tidings of salvation, through the finished work of a crucified, risen, and exalted Redeemer, throughout the known world, to the praise and glory of His Name: May Thy Kingdom come, that Thy will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven, and to Thyself, with Thy beloved Son, be all glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

MONDAY.

MY Father, if the prophet had bid Thee do some great thing, wouldest Thou not have done it? how much rather then, when He saith unto thee, Wash, and be clean?—2 KINGS v. 13.

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.—1 SAM. xv. 22.

And it came to pass, as Jesus went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when He saw them, He said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they

were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.—LUKE xvii. 11-19.

Whoso offereth Me praise, he glorifieth Me.—PSALM l. 23.

Praise ye the Lord; again, again
  The Spirit strikes the chord,
Nor toucheth He our hearts in vain;
  We praise, we praise the Lord.

Rejoice in Him; again, again
  The Spirit speaks the word,
And faith takes up the happy strain,
  Our joy is in the Lord.

Stand fast in Christ. Ah! yet again
  He teacheth all the band,

If human efforts are in vain,
  It is in Christ we stand.
"Clean every whit," Thou saidst it, Lord,
  Shall one suspicion lurk?
Thine surely is a faithful word,
  And Thine a finished work.
For ever be the glory given
  To Thee, O Lamb of God;
Our every joy on earth, in heaven,
  We owe it to Thy blood.

Prayer.

ENABLE us, Heavenly Father, with one heart and one voice, to praise and magnify Thy Holy Name. We desire to bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the unnumbered blessings of this life, but above all for Thine inestimable mercy in our redemption, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Truly Thy love is immeasurable; it passeth knowledge; and shall not we, our God, the unworthy, but

by Thy grace made the willing recipients of so great a gift, call upon our souls and all that is within us to show forth Thy praise. What are we that Thou shouldest thus have dealt with us?

Created anew in Christ Jesus, and sealed with the spirit of adoption, we can cry, Abba, Father, and ask in filial trust and confidence for all that we need. Make it our joy to serve Him, our sorrow to grieve Him in thought, word, or deed. Unite our hearts as a family to fear Thy Name, that we may each and all lift them up continuously in the delighted consciousness that Thou knowest us altogether.

We would have nothing hidden from Thy pure and holy gaze. Shine on us, O Lord, in Thy love; make us holy as Thou art holy. In Thy light may we see light, and O our Father and our God, help us, we

pray Thee, to reflect that light to others, believing that we are in this sense our brothers' keeper and his debtor, to walk before him in true holiness and righteousness of life, and though feeling our weakness, we may cry out almost in despair, "Who is sufficient for these things?" yet do we know that our sufficiency is of Thee, for our very weakness is our true strength for every duty, that the excellency of the power may be of Christ, and not of us. Strengthen us thus in Him to live to His glory before men, that they, seeing our works done in Him, may glorify Thee our Father in Heaven. We ask all in His precious Name, to whom be all the praise, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

TUESDAY.

I SAY then, Hath God cast off His people? Have they stumbled that they should fall?

God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be graffed in. Well; because of un-

belief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again. For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. For God hath included them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all.—ROM. xi. 1, 11, 12, 17-23, 25, 26, 32.

They rejected the pleasant land, they believed not His Word.—PS. cvi. 24.

Prayer.

O LORD our God and Father, who hast, in Thy wondrous grace and mercy, recorded for the instruction of those upon whom the ends of the ages are come the unbelief of Thy people Israel; grant to us, we pray Thee, at this time, to ponder our ways in the unerring light of Scripture, that we, thinking we stand, may take heed lest we fall. May we not be high-minded, but fear. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and by faith alone we stand.

Grant, we beseech Thee, that we and our whole house may receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save our souls; that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in Thy Son, our

Saviour Jesus Christ, in full dependence on Thy faithful testimony, "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Thou hast given us eternal life, and this life is in Thy Son. May we know of a truth that we are in Him, and He in us, by His spirit within us enabling us to cry, Abba, Father; and as every tree is known by its fruits, may our conversation ever be such as becometh the gospel of Christ. We are very weak, hold Thou up our goings in Thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. Grant that our eyes may ever be looking up to Thee, restoring our confidence in the loving advocacy of our Great High Priest, who is passed into the heavens, bearing our names, as believers in Him, on his breast-plate. Help us to take the sword of the spirit,

which is Thy Word, wherewith to quench all the fiery darts of Satan, who goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Help us at all times to resist him, that he may flee from us, for Thou hast not left us in ignorance of his devices. May we, our Father, whilst rejoicing thus in our own mercies, remember that we are enjoined to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Awaken Thine ancient people to look for the fulfilment of Thy promises concerning them, to gather them to their own land, and make them the joy of the whole earth. Set ever before us the prize of our high calling, even to the obtaining the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ; and, we beseech Thee, sanctify us wholly, and preserve our spirits, souls, and bodies blameless to His coming. And to Him, with Thyself and the Holy Ghost, be all glory, honour, praise,

might, majesty, and dominion, henceforth and for ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY.

BEHOLD, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee. What shall we have therefore?

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye that have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.—MATT. xix. 27, 29.

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your

name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.—LUKE vi. 22, 23.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—REV. ii. 10.

For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.—MARK xiii. 34-37.

PRAYER.

O LORD our God and Father, we are wholly insufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but praised be Thy Holy Name, our sufficiency is of Thee, and

we can draw nigh unto Thee with filial confidence, knowing that Thou didst make Thine only-begotten Son to be sin for us, who knew no sin, and that He is made unto us, wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption, for, by one offering, he hath perfected *for ever* them that are sanctified. Establish, strengthen, and settle us, we pray Thee, in these great and comforting truths, that we be not entangled with any yoke of bondage of man's devising, but that we may glory only in the Cross of Christ, by which we pray Thee to crucify the world unto us, and us unto the world. Give us grace to follow whithersoever it leadeth, through evil report, and through good report, that thus we may be made partakers of all His precious promises in the ages to come. May the prospect of the salvation that waiteth to be revealed, and

the glory that excelleth all human conception, ever be our strength for warfare and for service, or for suffering, knowing that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us at the appearing of Jesus Christ, with whom, if we suffer, we shall reign. We feel and would confess our utter unworthiness to tread such a path, but blessed be His Name, it is in His worthiness we stand, immutable as Himself the rock of ages, against which the winds and the floods beat in vain. Help us, our Father, to hold our confidence in Him steadfast to the end, and so to manifest in all our ways, who is our hope and trust, that others taking knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus, may heed also our testimony to His allsufficiency, and receive our loving invitation to see for themselves

the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. Make us, we pray Thee, wise in winning souls to Him. Endue us with holy courage, and forgive our cowardice in this matter, yea, our sin, in that seeing and knowing the danger, yet we fail to warn our fellow sinners to flee from the wrath to come. May we fear lest Thou require the blood of any at our hands, for whom, as for all, a free and full salvation is provided without money and without price. Freely we have received, help us freely to give. And do Thou, our God, give the increase to Thine own everlasting praise.

And now, Heavenly Father, take us and all ours, and all we love, under Thine especial care, leading us daily into all truth, and working mightily in us to will and to do all things according to Thy good pleasure in Christ Jesus concerning us, to whom,

with Thyself, be all glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY.

AND Jesus being assembled together with His disciples, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together they asked of Him, saying, Wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times and the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria,

and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? *this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.*—ACTS i. 7-11.

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, *and to every man his work*, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.—MARK xiii. 32-37.

Prayer.

WE thank Thee, Heavenly Father, in that Thou hast inclined our hearts to call upon Thy Holy Name, and recorded for our encouragement, "Before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Meet with and bless us now, as Thou seest will best fit us for service here and glory hereafter. Teach us to weigh all things in the balances of the sanctuary, that thus we may know how to choose the good and refuse the evil, and help us to prefer affliction with Thy people rather than the enjoyment of sin for a season, having respect to the recompense of the reward; and knowing that in due season we shall reap if we faint not, we implore grace that we may be kept from falling, and enabled to hold fast the beginning of

our confidence steadfast to the end, even Jesus, who is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Thee by Him. Seeing too, our Father, that without Him we can do nothing, help us so to abide in Him, that we may bring forth fruit unto Holiness in our lives as well as in our words, thus evidencing whose we are, and who we desire to serve. And if any now before Thee know Thee not as a reconciled Father in Christ Jesus, cause, we pray Thee, Thy Holy Spirit to convince them of sin, of righteousness, and of a judgment to come, that they may flee at once from impending wrath to the only Ark of Safety, to the ever-living Saviour, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and thus be made partakers of all the promises which are yea and amen in Him. Give us all, we pray Thee, heartfelt contrition for our multiplied transgressions:

we confess that we are continually erring from Thy ways, in thought, word, and deed, and if Thou, Lord, wert extreme to mark what is done amiss, who could abide Thy just displeasure; but Thou knowest our frame, Thou rememberest we are dust, and like as a father pitieth his children, so Thou pitiest them that fear Thee. Make sin exceedingly sinful to us, as that which Thou hatest, and may we dread grieving the Spirit that dwells in us, even according to the gracious promise of our blessed Saviour, "to bring all things that He said to remembrance, and to show us things to come;" and whilst we would not seek to be wise above that which is written, we would remember for our encouragement Thine own recorded word, "Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me." Truly,

O our God, we are not straitened in Thee, but in ourselves. We have not, because we ask not. Increase our spiritual hunger and thirst. Increase our faith, for surely Thy gifts and supplies are limited thereto. Without faith 'tis impossible to please Thee, and dost Thou not lovingly say, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." Fill us with the Holy Spirit, that we may go forth strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, witness a good confession before men of all that He has done and suffered, and above all of His coming again, as He ascended, to receive unto Himself His body the Church, to judge the world in righteousness, and to take to Himself His great power and reign. May we each respond, "Even so come, Lord Jesus," for the sake of the groaning creation, and Thine own glory, for which all things were created. All we

ask is in His blessed Name, to whom, with Thyself, be honour, praise, and thanksgiving, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

FRIDAY.

WILT Thou show wonders among the dead? Shall the dead rise up and give Thee thanks?

Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He raised not up if so be that the dead rise not. For, if the dead rise not, then is Christ not raised. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order; Christ the first-fruits, afterwards they that are Christ's at His coming. Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in

victory. O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.—1 Cor. xv. 12-26, 51-58.

Prayer.

THOU hast been our help, leave us not, neither forsake us, O God of our Salvation; and whilst lifting up our voices at this time in the language of praise and adoration for mercies that are renewed day by day, we desire to humble ourselves before Thee, in the remembrance of our utter unworthiness of the very least of them. Quicken us now, our gracious God, in our supplications for fresh grace and

strength to run with renewed ardour in the way of Thy commandments. We would especially plead for the guidance of Thine eye in our daily intercourse with a world that lieth in the wicked one, where dangers beset us on every side. May we, in nothing that we put our hand unto, be suffered to make shipwreck of faith, and a good conscience, void of offence toward God and man. Set a watch before our mouth, keep the door of our lips, that thus all we say or do may be for Thy glory, being said and done in Thy pure and holy fear, conscious ever of Thine all-searching eye. Make our consciences very tender and susceptible of the first approaches of sin, that in all, and everything, the light of eternity may shine, and control our every action.

Impress us momently with the uncertainty of all below; keep ever in our re-

membrance that here we have no continuing city, that our citizenship is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our bodies of corruption that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body; and may such a blessed hope strengthen us to lay aside every weight and the sin that doth most easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now at Thy right hand, from henceforth expecting until His foes be made His footstool. Hasten, Holy Father, this blessed consummation, decreed for Thine own everlasting glory before the foundation of the world, and for which the whole creation travaileth and groaneth. Meeten us, we

pray Thee, and all our dear relatives and friends, for this glorious inheritance in Him, to whom as unto Thyself be might, majesty, and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

SATURDAY.

WHAT sayest thou of thyself?—JOHN i. 22.

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret or hidden faults.—PSALM xix. 12.

And Jesus spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful * to me

* Should be rendered, God be propitiated towards me the sinner.

a sinner. I tell you, this man went down justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.—LUKE xviii. 9-14.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; and though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.—ISAIAH i. 18.

Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.—JOB xxxiii. 24.

PRAYER.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgiveth all thy sin, and healeth all thy diseases. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he put our transgressions from us. Thou, our God, hast found a ransom, even Jesus, and thus

Thou canst be just, and yet justify us, and all who believe on Him to the saving of the soul. What can we render unto the Lord, for all the goodness He hath bestowed upon us. Open Thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth Thy praise. Grant it may be continually in our mouths, that others may hear thereof and be glad, that they, too, may taste and see that the Lord is good, and that there is no want to them that fear Him, but that blessed indeed is the man that trusteth in Him, for He redeemeth the souls of His servants, and none that take refuge in Him shall be desolate.

Break every heart before Thee, that may be yet unbroken on account of sin; let the cry of the publican be awakened that Thou mayest heal and justify them. Convince all such of sin, of righteousness, and of a

judgment to come, and then show them, by the mighty power of Thy Spirit, the ransom Thou hast found, even Thy well-beloved Son, the Lord our righteousness. And we pray Thee, Heavenly Father, to send forth Thy light and Thy truth to every corner of our own land, and also to the far corners of the earth. Fit and prepare Thine own messengers, and abundantly own their labours. Make Thy word a hammer in their hands, and as a sword may it divide asunder the joints and marrow, discerning every thought and intent of every heart, bringing all into captivity to Christ Jesus.

Bless, we pray Thee, Thy people the Jews. Make them to know that the kingdom is now nigh at hand. May they now heed our blessed Lord's words, and look up, and lift up their heads, for assuredly their redemption draweth nigh; for though

heaven and earth pass away, Thy Word concerning them will assuredly be fulfilled. May we, O our God, also give diligent heed thereunto, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping, for what He said unto His Jewish disciples, He says unto all, Watch! May we, by Thy help, our God and Father, watch and pray always, that we may be counted worthy to escape all those things that are coming to pass, that so keeping the word of His patience, we may be kept according to His loving, gracious, and faithful promise, from the hour of tribulation, which is coming upon all the world to try them that dwell on the earth. Make us patient, stablish our hearts in the assured belief that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. And to the King Eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

FOURTH WEEK.

Fourth Week.

SUNDAY.

AND what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?—ISAIAH x. 3.

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His

wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? —REV. vi. 15-17.

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand.—JOEL ii. 1.

The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, it hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.—ZEPHANIAH i. 14, 15, 18.

But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman

with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. . . . . For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.—1 THESS. v. 1-6, 9-11.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, we desire to draw nigh unto Thee with the language of praise, remembering for our joy, that on this the first day of the week Jesus rose for our justification, having made peace through the blood of the Cross, whereby alone we can rejoice in hope of the glory

of God. We thank Thee too, Heavenly Father, in that we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin, so that we are encouraged to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain grace to help us in every time of need; and seeing that we need Thy succour and sustaining strength every moment, help us to be instant in prayer, and to continue in the same with thanksgiving, even as our blessed Lord enjoined "men always to pray, and not to faint." May we never faint by reason of the way, seeing that Thine arm is not shortened, nor Thine ear heavy that it cannot hear. Help us ever to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, and to consider one another to provoke unto love and good works, not for-

saking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see *the day* approaching. And, O Heavenly Father, we pray Thee to make the watchmen Thou hast appointed and called to the work, trumpet-tongued; unstop the deaf ears, open the eyes of the blind, and loosen every stammering tongue, that the Cross of Jesus may be lifted up, and His Name and salvation proclaimed to the very ends of the earth, ere that day of darkness come of which Thou hast given such abundant warning. Have compassion on our own land: send forth Thy light and Thy truth into every town, village, and hamlet thereof.

Bless our Queen, and all the Royal family, with Thy saving grace and mercy; also rulers, magistrates, and all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and

peaceable life in all godliness and honesty; and seeing Thou hast set them in slippery places, may they have more grace to meet their greater need. And now, Heavenly Father, we again commend our dear children, with our whole house, to Thy care and keeping, in the Name and for the sake of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Thine own well-beloved Son, to whom, with Thyself, be all honour, glory, praise, majesty, and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

MONDAY.

WHAT think ye of Christ? And what do ye more than others?—MATT. v. 47.

For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.—PHIL. ii. 21.

He gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world.—GAL. i. 4.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. Mortify, therefore, your members which are upon

the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. For which thing's sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience. In the which ye also walked some time when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these, anger, wrath, strife, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth: lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge, after the image of Him that created him: where there is neither Greek, nor Jew, circumcision, nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond, nor free, but Christ is all, and in all. Put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, even so also do ye. And above all these things, put on charity (or love), which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be

ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. AND WHATSOEVER YE DO, IN WORD OR DEED, DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS UNTO GOD AND THE FATHER BY HIM.—COL. iii. 1-17.

PRAYER.

MOST gracious God and Heavenly Father, help us, we pray Thee, at this time to bless, praise, and magnify Thy Holy Name, for all the blessings Thou hast caused to pass before us, and especially for the teachings of Thy Holy word, from time to time. We would cease from man, and wait only on Thee. Help us to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest that which Thou hast inspired, for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness, for us, on

whom assuredly the end of the ages has come, that thus we may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and that "What saith the Scripture," may be our watchword in all our undertakings. Walking thus in the light of Thy Word, may Thy joy be our strength for service and warfare, specially cleaving to that blessed assurance of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light that no man can approach unto. We thank Thee for His finished work, for our completeness in Him; and implore grace and strength to walk ever as those who are redeemed eternally; sealed by Thy grace with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory. Hasten

in Thine own time this glorious fulfilment of Thy purposes, even before the foundation of the world; may Thy Kingdom come, that Thy will may be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Make us, Thy feeble ones, strong in faith, giving glory to Thee in this dark night, foreshadowing the dawn of everlasting day. Send forth Thy light and Thy truth in all its fulness to those who have believed through grace, that they may be as lights set on a hill which cannot be hid; and may we all be as those who really wait for their Lord; meanwhile, warning every man, and persuading every man to flee from the wrath to come, to the only ark of safety from condemnation and consequent destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. Seal home on all our hearts our blessed and Divine Master's own words, "Blessed is

that servant whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing; of a truth I say unto you, he shall make him ruler over all that he hath."

Be it unto us, Holy Father, by Thy grace and goodness, to watch with our dear Lord and Master day by day and hour by hour, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping.

Grant, gracious God, all that we have asked, to us, our children, and our whole house, for His glory's sake, in whose all-prevailing Name we present our every petition, and to Him, with Thyself, be all the praise for ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

TUESDAY.

WHY seek ye the living among the dead?

He is not here, but is risen; remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day He shall rise again. And they remembered His words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, that told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.—LUKE xxiv. 5-11.

Now if Christ be preached that He rose from

the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen; and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. For if the dead rise not, then is Christ not raised; and if Christ be not raised, then is your faith vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming. Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He shall have put down all rule, and all authority and power. For He must reign till He hath put all things under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He hath

put all things under His feet. But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is excepted which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him, that God may be all in all. —1 Cor. xv. 12-28.

Prayer.

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, His Father, and our Father, His God, and our God: who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Gracious

God and Father, we desire to bless Thy Holy Name that our blessed Lord was raised for our justification, and that "because He lives we shall live also;" we know that He is gone to prepare a place for us, all unworthy as we are in ourselves, that He will come again to receive us to Himself, that where He is we may be also. We know from His own blessed word whither He is gone; and through Thy boundless grace and unmerited mercy we know too the way, even Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and we ask, Heavenly Father, in His precious name that we may be filled with the Spirit, that thus we may walk worthily of the vocation wherewith we are called. Let us no longer live to ourselves, but to Him who died to deliver us from this present evil world, according to Thy will; He suffered, leaving us an example that we

should follow His steps, who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; when He was reviled, He reviled not again, when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him who judgeth righteously. Oh! our Father, grant us Thy grace and strength to walk as He walked, to refrain our tongue from evil, our lips from speaking guile, having compassion one of another, loving as brethren, being pitiful and courteous; and even as we are taught that love worketh no ill to his neighbour, make it, we pray Thee, our ruling principle in business, and every relation of life, that so we may show forth the praises of Him, who having called us out of darkness into His marvellous light, enjoins on us that we reflect that light and love to others. May we day by day grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to

whom, with Thyself, be glory now and for ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY.

WHERE is now my hope?—JOB xvii. 15

Woman, why weepest thou?

Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him.—JOHN xx. 13.

And, behold, two of the disciples went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him. And He said unto them, What manner of communications are these, that ye have one to

another, as ye walk, and are sad? And one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto Him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And He said unto them, What things? And they said unto Him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him. But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to-day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; and when they found not His body, they came, saying, that they also had seen a vision of angels, which said He was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but Him they saw not. Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things,

and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and He made as if He would have gone further. But they constrained Him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And He went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread and blessed it, and brake, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight.—LUKE xxiv. 13-31.

PRAYER.

O LORD our God and Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, and with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning; we come at this time to offer Thee the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; let it not be with the language of the lips only, but the true in-

wrought work of Thy Holy Spirit. Quicken our souls to worship according to that which Thou requirest, in spirit and in truth. Truly we cleave to the dust, but we remember for our joy and encouragement, that Thou givest power to the faint, and to them that have no might Thou increasest strength. Such are we, our God; O give us life divine, that we may mount up as on the wings of eagles, run without weariness, and walk without fainting in the way of Thy commandments, for, thanks to Thy grace, assuredly we can say, therein is our desire. Search every heart in Thy presence, and give to each of us self-knowledge, that loathing ourselves, we may rightly value the precious blood that cleanses, and may He, who girded Himself with a towel and washed His disciples' feet when on earth, daily wash ours from the defilement con-

tracted in passing through a world lying in the wicked one, and present us, as our great High Priest and advocate, continually faultless, through His perfected atonement, before Thy Throne. Thus, conscious of our oneness with Him, may we ever rest in Him as our eternal security, and know that even death will be gain, for whether we wake or sleep we shall be for ever with Him who hath ransomed us from the power of the grave. Grant that none of Thy dispensations towards us, whether, to our minds, prosperous or adverse, may be retarded in their appointed issue by our wilfulness or unbelief; but may we, by Thy help, ever seek to know Thy purposes in all Thy dealings, examining and proving ourselves by Thine unerring word, that so we may be fellow-workers with Thee for our sanctification which Thou willest. Deliver us, and

all dear to us, from all error, and lead us into all truth. May our eyes be ever up unto Thee. May we cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, for wherein is he to be accounted of? Let Thine own word be increasingly precious to us. Make it not only profitable to us for doctrine, but for reproof; may we bring our every thought, word, and action to its standard, and let "What saith the Scripture?" be our test in every matter of doubt and perplexity. Above all may we, by Thy grace and help, so walk with Jesus Himself, that like the disciples of old on the way to Emmaus, our hearts may burn within us, whilst He, by the promised Comforter, brings all things concerning Himself to our remembrance, and shows us things to come, even that transcendent glory prepared for Him by Thee before the foundation of the world,

into which He longs to bring us and all His believing ones. Enable us to keep the word of His patience, that He also may keep us from the hour of tribulation that is coming upon all the world, to try them that dwell on the earth.

And now, our gracious God, we commend to Thee our dear children, all our relatives, and friends, and also all who serve in our house, to Thy special care, beseeching Thee to make them all partakers of Thy grace, and inheritors of all Thy great and precious promises in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom, with Thyself, enable us ever to ascribe all might, power, and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY.

WHAT think ye of Christ?—MATT. xxii. 5.

We have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.—COL. i. 14.

Eternal redemption.—HEB. ix. 12.

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when He

cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared Me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me), to do Thy will, O God. Above when He said, Sacrifice, and offering, and burnt offerings, and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein, which are offered by the law; then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.—HEB. x. 1-10.

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and to them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.—HEB. ix. 28.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, we thank Thee that we come before Thee this day with the one offering, whereby Thou hast

perfected for ever them that are sanctified, even Thine own well-beloved Son, who, praised be Thy Name, is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. For what then shall we plead, save that these precious and soul-saving truths may be indelibly engraven on our hearts, and bring forth in us the fruits of a holy life, to Thine own everlasting glory: that the work of righteousness in us may be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever?

Thus strengthened, our God and Father, by Thee, we shall, in Thy Name, be enabled to testify of those things which we have tasted, felt, and handled of the good word of our God. Make Thy service our delight, and we know all our wants will be Thy care. We can trust Thee with all our

temporal concerns, and go on our way rejoicing in Thee and Thy faithful promises, which are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus.

Be present with us, blessed God, wherever we go; lead us into all truth, and enable us to manifest its power in our own lives, and to present it faithfully to others. Strengthen us mightily to warn all within hearing of our testimony, to flee from the wrath to come, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. Save them, and all dear to us, we pray Thee, from so terrible, so fearful an end, and enable them now in the accepted time, now

in this the day of salvation, to take refuge in Jesus, and to lay hold of eternal life in Him.

And now, Holy and Almighty God, we earnestly ask Thy special blessing on our children, and those who serve in our house. Grant that Christ may be found in all their hearts the hope of glory; and direct us each and all into Thy love, and the patient waiting for Him, knowing that there is a crown of glory laid up for such as love His appearing. May this blessed hope lead us to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts for His dear sake, who ever liveth at Thy right hand to present our petitions, and to Him, with Thyself, be all praise, honour, and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

FRIDAY.

WATCHMAN, what of the night?

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.—ROM. xiii. 12-14.

Why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not then judge one another any

more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.—ROM. xiv. 10, 12, 13.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.—ROM. xiii. 10.

For though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and *have not* LOVE, *I am nothing.* And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, *and have not* LOVE, *it profiteth me nothing.* And now abideth faith, hope, LOVE, these three; but the greatest of these is LOVE. —1 COR. xiii. 2, 3, 13.

PRAYER.

O LORD our God and Father, who hast taught us in Thy Word that all our doings without love are nothing worth, pour into our hearts in full measure, we pray Thee, that most excellent gift of Love,

the very bond of peace and of all perfectness, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee. Thou art Love, and Thou art light, grant then to us, that in Thy light we may see all things as they really are in Thy pure and holy sight.

We have supplicated faith; we have cried daily unto Thee, "Lord, increase our faith," and now we are graciously reminded in Thy Word, that though we have all faith so that we could remove mountains, and have not Love, we are nothing.

Holy and gracious Father, we ask Thee in faith, nothing doubting, that thou wilt fasten this, Thine own Word, on all our hearts, as a nail in a sure place, that in every scene through which we may be called to pass it may recur to memory; sanctifying our every act to Thy praise, and the furtherance of Thy glory, which

we pray Thee to give us grace to desire before and beyond all earthly good, knowing assuredly that no good thing wilt Thou withhold from him that walketh uprightly.

And now, our God, we beseech Thee to imbue us all with *that Love that suffereth long and is kind*, that *Love that envieth not*, *that vaunteth not itself*, *is not puffed up*, *doth not behave itself unseemly*, *seeketh not her own*, *is not easily provoked*, that *thinketh no evil*, that *rejoiceth not in iniquity*, but *rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things*, *believeth all things*, *hopeth all things*, *endureth all things*. Such, we pray Thee, to make the true and earnest desire of every soul before Thee. We ask it for ourselves, for all dear to us, and for the Church, the body of Christ, for whose glorious appearing may we and every member thereof long unceasingly. Watch over our dear children especially, and help us

daily to bring them in the arms of our faith to Jesus, that He may put His hands on and bless them, and enable us by Thy grace to walk before them in all holiness and godly sincerity. Bless our going out and coming in, our lying down and our rising up, and accept our thanksgivings for all Thine unnumbered mercies in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, to whom, with Thyself, be all glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*

SATURDAY.

WHAT saith the Lord?

Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: that in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him.—EPH. i. 9, 10.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, *and which is to come*, the Almighty.—REV. i. 3, 5-8.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.—REV. iii. 10, 11, 20-22.

Prayer.

GRACIOUS and blessed God, our hearts gladly turn to Thee in heartfelt confidence and love as consciously pardoned sinners, accepted in Thy well-beloved Son, whom Thou hast appointed heir of all things; and made us, praised be Thy Name for Thy boundless love and grace, to be joint heirs with Him, in whom we have obtained the inheritance already purchased, and soon, very soon, to be redeemed. Help us, heavenly Father, to walk worthily of so high, so holy a calling.

Make Thy Word according to Thine own will, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, help us to give diligent heed thereto in all our ways, and may "What saith the Lord" be our watchword in all our under-

takings. Thus, walking in the light as Thou art in the light, let Thy joy be our continuous strength. Increase our spiritual hunger and thirst, that so they may be commensurate in their measure, with Thy power and willingness to bless Thy waiting people. May we understand and love Thy purposes concerning the Church and the world, even the establishment of Christ's kingdom upon the earth, when every knee shall bow to Him, and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to Thine everlasting glory.

Grant, we pray Thee, that every one now kneeling before Thee may realize their full acceptance in, by, and through Jesus, and be able experimentally to say, "I sought the Lord and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears;" for those whom the Son makes free are free indeed; conscious of sin dwelling in, yet having

no more conscience thereof, seeing that He hath for ever put it away. Thus can our hearts indite a good matter; we can speak of the things touching Him as King, and rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, in that He cometh to judge the world with righteousness, and His people with faithfulness. Grant this to all here present, and to all near and dear to us.

Enlarge, too, we beseech thee, our desires, and increase our loving zeal for others; may every soul we meet in our daily intercourse with the world draw forth our prayers on their behalf; and help us to proclaim to all, that Jesus is able to save to the uttermost, all who come unto Thee by Him.

And now unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto

God and His Father, be glory and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

Prayers for Special Occasions.

IN TIME OF AFFLICTION AND TROUBLE.

IS any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.—JAS. v. 13.

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after Him.—ECCLES. vii. 14.

Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.—HEB. xii. 6.

I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear:

but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.—JOB xlii. 5, 6.

I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: and none can deliver out of my hand.—DEUT. xxxii. 39.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.—HEB. xii. 11.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.—1 PET. i. 7-9.

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which none shall see the Lord.—HEB. xii. 12-14.

Cast not away your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.—HEB. x. 35-37.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.—HAB. ii. 3.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Father and our God, who hast enjoined on us Thy children in everything to give thanks, and in everything by prayer and supplication to make our requests known; we desire to draw nigh unto Thee in this hour of deep trial and affliction, to plead Thy promises of

grace to help us in every time of need. We are blind and finite, and dare not ask Thee to remove this cup from us, for we know Thou dost not afflict us willingly.

Thou hast indeed chastened us sore, but, praised be Thy Name, Thou dost wound in order to heal. May we hear the rod, and who hath appointed it: Be still and know that Thou art God. Grant, we pray Thee, that we may in no wise run counter to Thy gracious purposes concerning us; even to make us partakers of Thine own holiness. Thou willest that we should live for others rather than for ourselves, and therefore Thou dost thus instruct us to make straight paths for our feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way, through our unfaithfulness. Help us, O our God, to give good heed to Thy teachings. Bring, we pray Thee, our every thought into

captivity to the obedience of Christ, who was for our sakes essentially a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; that we may be daily more and more conformed to His image; who, being in the form of God, and thinking it no robbery to be equal with God, yet, made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross, for our salvation. Humble us, our Father, in the very dust before Thee, and grant that we, who, unlike our Divine Master, who left us an example that we should follow His steps, have, contrariwise, eagerly sought reputation, honour, and preferment in the world where He was cast out and crucified, (the fashion whereof perisheth;) may henceforth seek the honour which cometh from Thee only, with a single eye to the promotion of

Thy Kingdom and its righteousness, that we tarnish it not to the eye of the unbelieving, and thus hinder its reception and extension.

Help us now to cast ourselves unreservedly on Thy loving care, implicitly believing that Thou wilt never lay on us more than Thou wilt give us strength to bear, and that Thou wilt cause all to work for our good, so that even with the sorrowful cup still in our hand, we may count on the promised blessing.

Leave us not, our Father, but strengthen us mightily each step of the way, for Thy dear Son's sake. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest on us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

UNDER BEREAVEMENT.

THE cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?—JOHN xviii. 11.

Himself hath done it.—ISAIAH xxxviii. 15.

It is I; be not afraid.—JOHN vi. 20.

I, even I, am He that comforteth you.—ISAIAH li. 12.

The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.—JOB i. 21.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto

you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.—1 THESS. iv. 13-18.

PRAYER.

O LORD our God and Father, we poured out a prayer when Thy chastening hand was still hanging over us; our souls refused to be comforted, save in the hope of deliverance, and our secret cry was, If it be possible, let this cup pass from us. Thou, our Father, knewest our inward conflict;

our sighs and our tears were not disregarded, yet in Thine infinite love and wisdom, Thou hast willed otherwise. It hath pleased Thee for Thine own gracious purposes to remove from our midst the one we loved and longed to retain, and now, we pray Thee, to strengthen us by Thy mighty power, that we, Thy sorely afflicted ones, may bow submissively to Thy decree, and say from our inmost souls, Thy will be done.

Sanctify, we beseech Thee, to each and all belonging to us, this Thy chastening but loving dispensation. Let it not fail to produce deep self-abasement and humiliation of soul. May we individually try our ways in Thy immediate presence, and make us willing to surrender all we hold most dear, rather than lose the teachings of these Thy fatherly corrections, but truly and earnestly

exercising ourselves thereby, may they yield, in their fullest measure, the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Above all, Heavenly Father, in the very depth of our affliction we can, and do, heartily thank Thee for each one dear to us, departed to be with Christ, in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection; and grant, we pray Thee, that the glorious prospect of our equally certain re-union, when we shall all be caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so be for ever with Him, may so sustain and animate our souls, that losing sight therein of the sorrows of separation now, we may, with renewed vigour, press along the mark, for the joyful prize of our high calling, holding terrestrial things looser than before, and having our affections set altogether on the unseen and eternal with

Jesus at Thy right hand, that we be not ashamed before Him at His coming.

All we ask is in His holy and precious Name, to whom, with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour, praise, and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and evermore. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING FOR DELIVERANCE IN TROUBLE, OR RECOVERY FROM DANGEROUS ILLNESS.

WHY art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?

Hope in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.—PSALM xliii. 5.

He heareth the cry of the afflicted.—JOB xxxiv. 28.

He maketh sore, and bindeth up: He woundeth, and His hands make whole.—JOB v. 18.

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold,

and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.—HAB. iii. 17, 18.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.—ISAIAH xxvi. 3.

Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.—PSALM cxvi. 7.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his Holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thy sin, and healeth all thine infirmities; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.—PSALM ciii. 1-4.

I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.—PSALM xxxiv. 1.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort, we desire to pour out our hearts before Thee, in the language of joy

and praise, for Thy great goodness to us in the hour of temptation and trial. We thank Thee for Thy sustaining grace; truly Thou didst send us help from the sanctuary, Thou didst strengthen us out of Zion. Enable us still to wait only upon Thee, casting on Thy love our every care, in the full confidence that Thou carest for us, and believing Thy promise, that Thou wilt never leave us, nor forsake us, but guide us at all times by Thy counsel, and afterward receive us to glory.

May we never be permitted to doubt Thy love in any wise; and may the affliction through which we have been called to pass, make us cleave more closely to Thee, hiding ourselves ever under the covert of Thine Almighty wings.

(Grant, we beseech Thee, that the life Thou hast been graciously pleased to pro-

long for a season, may be wholly consecrated to Thee; and may the lessons inculcated in the season of suffering be fraught with living benefit to our whole house, teaching us all, so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.)

Above all, grant that we may be led by all Thy dealings with us to live in the habit of ceaseless prayer, watching thereunto with thanksgiving; for thus only can we be kept from falling into ways detrimental to our own souls, and becoming, instead of lights set on a hill, stumbling blocks to others. And seeing that here we have no continuing city, may our words and actions, by Thy help, testify that we seek one to come, even a city that hath foundations, whose maker and builder is God. May the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, remind us daily of this our sure inherit-

ance, and to Thyself, with Thy well-beloved Son, be all the praise now and for ever. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us, now and evermore. *Amen.*

DO ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while and ye shall not see Me; and again, a little while and ye shall see Me, because I go to the Father?—JOHN xvi. 19.

I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto Myself: that where I am, there ye may be also.—JOHN xiv. 2, 3.

THE night is far spent, and the day is at hand,
Already the dawn may be seen in the sky.
Rejoice then, ye saints, 'tis your Lord's own command,
Rejoice, for the coming of Jesus draws nigh.

What a day will that be when the Saviour appears!
How welcome to those who have shared in His Cross!

A crown incorruptible then will be theirs,
A rich compensation for suffering and loss.

What is loss in this world, when compared to that day?
To the glory that then will from Heaven be revealed?
The Saviour is coming, His people may say;
The Lord whom we look for, our Sun and our Shield.

O pardon us, Lord, that our love to Thy Name
Is so faint, with so much our affections to move;
Our coldness should fill us with grief and with shame,
So much to be loved, and so little to love!

O kindle within us a holy desire,
Like that which was found in Thy people of old,
Who tasted Thy love, and whose hearts were on fire
While they waited in patience Thy face to behold.

THE END.

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